

Student conference in linguistics

October 13th–14th, 2024

Institute of Linguistics, University of Bern

PROGRAM

prediction errors
grammar case marking Märchen
Nagamese finite verb Tibetic phonology
language processing person marking
Deixis Narum contact
Töne Yali pro-drop ideophones Totoli
toponyms Spiti Übersetzungen
Hmar Vietnamese Kurdish Chinese
demonstrative Thadou tone love concepts
reconstruction online discourse
child-directed speech mentale Räume
Tamar Saibol #MeToo movement
stem alternations phonetics typology
honorifics Vikings Chinesisch
error rates

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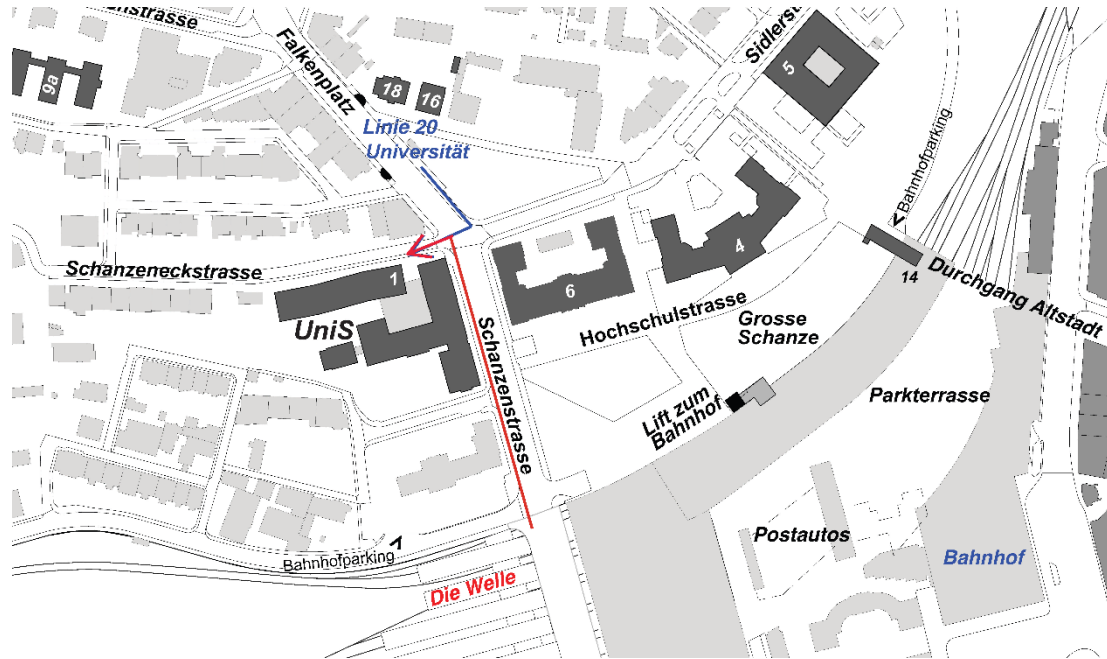


General information

Location: **UniS** (Schanzeneckstrasse 1, 3012 Bern), room **B -102** (one level below ground floor)

Directions:

- from the *Welle* walk along the *Schanzenstrasse* upwards, then turn left
- from the main entrance of the train station take bus No. 20 (Kante F)
Bern, Bahnhof → Bern, Universität



Presentations:

- in English or German
- maximally 20 minutes, followed by 10 minutes for discussion

Keynotes:

- preferably 45 minutes, with 15 minutes for discussion

Conference dinners (at your own expense):

- Sunday: Restaurant Casa d'Italia (Bühlstrasse 57, 3012 Bern)
- Monday: Pittaria (Falkenplatz 1, 3012 Bern)

If you would like to see a bit of the city of Bern, I recommend visiting the Bundeshaus, the Münster, the Bärengraben and/or taking a walk along the Aare river.

Information and contact:

- Website: www.isw.unibe.ch/forschung/studentische_konferenz
- E-mail: conference.isw.unibe@gmx.ch
- In case of emergencies, contact me (Janna Büchi) directly via +41 76 746 73 44.

Information for participants staying overnight

Youth hostel: Weiermattheim (Falkensteinweg 2, 3098 Köniz)

Arrival: Saturday, October 12th after 5 o'clock in the evening

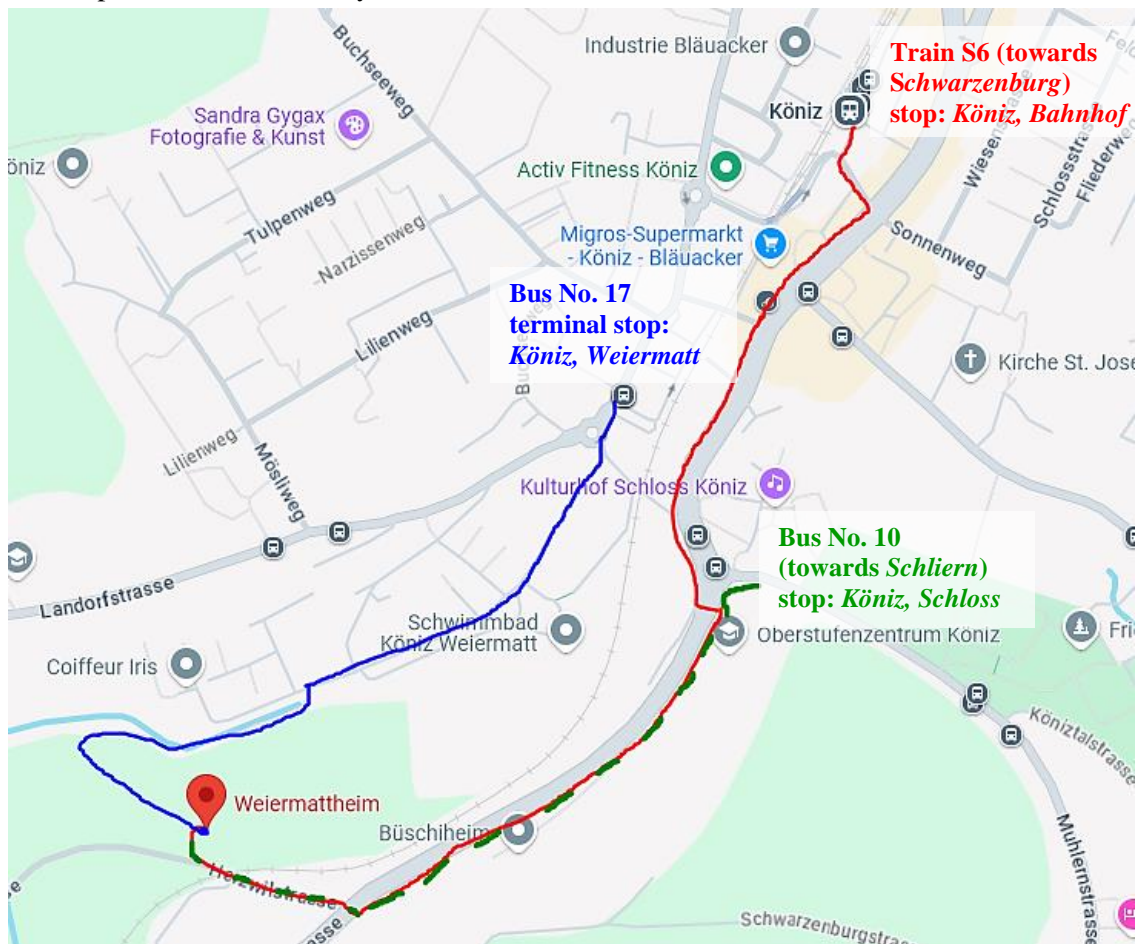
Checkout: Tuesday, October 15th before 10 o'clock in the morning

Please remember to bring with you a pillow, a blanket (or a sleeping bag), and a bed sheet (!).

To get to the Weiermattheim from the main train station in Bern, you need a bus or train ticket with the following specifications: Libero Einzelbillet, 1-2 Zonen (Zonen 100, 101), 2. Klasse, 5.20 CHF (or 3.00 CHF if you have a Halbtax-Abonnement). Possible connections (I suggest downloading the SBB Mobile app for bus and train schedules):

- train S6 (towards Schwarzenburg): *Bern, Bahnhof, Gleis 13 → Köniz, Bahnhof*
- bus No. 10 (towards Schliern): *Bern, Bahnhof, Kante I → Köniz, Schloss*
- bus No. 17: *Bern, Bahnhof, Kante D → Köniz, Weiermatt* (terminal stop)

The map below shows the way from these three train and bus stations to the Weiermattheim.



Once you arrive, you will be greeted with a welcome apéro. For dinner, I suggest the Restaurant Brunnenhof (Landorfstrasse 29, 3098 Köniz) nearby.

On the conference days, breakfast will be provided at the Weiermattheim.

To get to the university, it takes about 20 minutes by public transportation. The costs from the Weiermattheim to the university and back will be covered. Possible connections:

- bus No. 10: *Köniz, Schloss → Bern, Hirschengraben*
- bus No. 17: *Köniz, Weiermatt → Bern, Hirschengraben*

From the stop *Hirschengraben* it takes a few minutes on foot along the *Schanzenstrasse* to the UniS building.

Sunday, October 13th (UniS, B -102)

08³⁰–08⁵⁰ **Check-in**, entrance area UniS (ground floor)

08⁵⁵–09⁰⁰ **Address of welcome**, room B -102 (one level below ground floor)

Keynote

09⁰⁰–10⁰⁰ Dr. Maria Bardají i Farré (Universitat de Barcelona; Universität zu Köln)
Child-directed speech in Totoli (Indonesia): reflections on methodology and universality
 → p. 5

Coffee break

Session 1: Charged language

Chair: Jonathan Reich

10³⁰–11⁰⁰ Christian Klöckner
The role of ideophones in Thadou and related South Central (Kuki-Chin) languages → p. 5

11⁰⁰–11³⁰ Yiwei Luo
Exploring “Love” Concepts in Chinese: A Functionalist Perspective Using Natural Semantic Metalanguage Framework → p. 7

11³⁰–12⁰⁰ Julia Weller
Contextual Wording and Framework of the #MeToo Movement in Online Discourse → p. 8

Buffet lunch at the UniS cafeteria

Session 2: Deixis in context

Chair: Janna Büchi

13⁰⁰–13³⁰ Jonathan Reich
A demonstrative in sentence-final position: the case of ari in the Apahapsili dialect of Yali (Trans-New Guinea) → p. 9

13³⁰–14⁰⁰ Carmen Schormair
Verflechtung mentaler Räume durch Deixis → p. 11

Coffee break

Session 3: Verbal complexity from different perspectives

Chair: Joël Schregenberger

14³⁰–15⁰⁰ Susie Kanshouwa
Person Markings in Saibol and Narum → p. 12

15⁰⁰–15³⁰ Ellora Hänni
Stem alternations in Spiti → p. 14

15³⁰–16⁰⁰ Dibyajyoti Jana
Diagnosing Contact Process from Outcome: The Case of Nagamese Finite Verb → p. 14

Coffee break

Keynote

16³⁰–17³⁰ Dr. Sandra Auderset (Universität Bern)
What tone teaches us about typology → p. 15

Conference dinner at the Restaurant Casa d'Italia

Monday, October 14th (UniS, B -102)

Keynote

09⁰⁰–10⁰⁰ Dr. Gwendolyn Hyslop (The University of Sydney)
Title to be announced → p. 17

Coffee break

Session 4: Analysis on various levels

Chair: Ellora Hänni

10³⁰–11⁰⁰ Léonard Paget
Töne des Hmars → p. 17

11⁰⁰–11³⁰ Lucas Ardelean
Developing a Cross-Dialect Phonetic Analysis of Southern Kurdish in Iraq and Iran
 → p. 18

11³⁰–12⁰⁰ Sara Birkenmaier
A Comparative Analysis of Complex Honorifics in Tibetic Languages → p. 18

12⁰⁰–12³⁰ Freya Schumann
Title to be announced → p. 19

Lunch at the UniS cafeteria

Session 5: Looking back

Chair: Sereina Waldis

13³⁰–14⁰⁰ Joël Schregenberger
A first look at Tamar historical phonology → p. 19

14⁰⁰–14³⁰ Janna Büchi
A grammatical reconstruction of “genitive” marking in Northwestern South Central Trans-Himalayan → p. 19

14³⁰–15⁰⁰ Sarah Möller
Toponymic evidence for the meeting of the Danish and Norwegian Vikings in North-West England → p. 20

Coffee break

Session 6: Learning from problems and errors

Chair: Dr. Sandra Auderset

15³⁰–16⁰⁰ Yulei Ji
Eine vergleichende Analyse zweier chinesischer Übersetzungen des Grimms Märchens auf Basis der funktionalen Übersetzungstheorie → p. 21

16⁰⁰–16³⁰ Elizaveta Savina
Differences between semantics-based and syntax-based prediction errors during language processing: evidence from self-paced reading → p. 22

16³⁰–17⁰⁰ Marvin Martiny
Error rates in language typology: a first survey → p. 23

Conference dinner at the Pittaria

Abstracts (in order of presentation)

Child-directed speech in Totoli (Indonesia): reflections on methodology and universality

Dr. Maria Bardají i Farré

Universitat de Barcelona; Universität zu Köln

Research on language directed to children has largely been based on data from academic and middle-class settings and mostly from English and German speakers. This initially led to the idea that the so-called *motherese* or *baby talk* (i. e. a special child-directed register) was universal and crucial for language acquisition. However, further cross-linguistic and cross-cultural research suggests that, if at all, adults from different cultures do not adjust their speech in the same manner when talking to children (Lieven 1994:56; Shneidman & Woodward 2015).

In this talk, I present a preliminary investigation of child-directed interactions in Totoli, a western Austronesian language spoken by about 5.000 speakers in the northern part of Central Sulawesi (Indonesia). The talk is first concerned with the need of documenting child language and language directed to children in underresearched languages as well as the methodological approach to this type of documentation. Then I explore two main questions: first, in which contexts Totoli adults address children directly and, second, in what way they modulate their speech when doing so. The observations are drawn from a corpus of home interactions with children aged between 2 and 4 years, which was collected between 2019 and 2023 in the village Gio (Northern Tolitoli).

A qualitative analysis of the data suggests that Totoli speakers do use a special register when addressing children and that the main characteristics of this speech largely coincide with what is reported for a number of western societies. However, there are still differences to be noted. First, not all contexts of joint attention between caregivers and children seem to be accompanied by child-directed speech. In addition, while the purposes of Totoli child-directed speech largely coincide with the ones suggested in the literature (clarification, attention seeking, etc.), there are still some differences in the way they are linguistically realized. I argue that this is due to specific linguistic and sociocultural characteristics of Totoli.

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The role of ideophones in Thadou and related South Central (Kuki-Chin) languages

Christian Klöckner

Universität Regensburg

“Marked words that depict sensory imagery” is how Mark Dingemans (2011: 25, 2012: 655) quite broadly defines ideophones. These fairly widespread but nonetheless often overlooked elements are the center of this study. They are marked as they often stand out structurally, the degrees and domain vary cross-linguistically. Ideophones allow the speaker to tow the listener into a scene once experienced by the speaker – they depict, rather than describe sensory imagery, be it sound, movement or other domains. This study looks at ideophones in the South Central branch of Trans-Himalayan. In the first part I examine ideophones in the Thadou language (TH, Eastern India) on the basis of an annotated corpus (see Haokip 2021) of eight texts in total, five of which are traditional narratives and the remaining ones are monologues about local life, expanding on the previous work by Haokip (2014). In the second part I compare the results from Thadou to descriptions of ideophones in other South Central languages. Patent (1998), Haokip (2014), Chelliah et al. (2020) among others have compared their data to a handful of related languages and Abbi (1990) and Lahaussis (2023) shed

light on other areas, but thus far, an exhaustive comparison of ideophones, especially in form, in South Central languages is missing.

In Thadou, ideophones always occur post-verbally and as a full or partial reduplication of a monosyllabic element as can be seen in examples (1a and b). They usually collocate with specific verbs. Ideophones collocating with particular verbs or single members of other word classes are quite common in the broader region as can be seen in Lahaussais (2023) for the Kiranti languages (TH, Nepal) or in Modi and Post (2020) for Adi and Milang (TH, Northeastern India).

Ideophones often occur in pairs and such pairs can highlight different aspects such as size or connotation. Thadou and other South Central languages employ sound symbolism, which can be used to oppose e.g. the aforementioned size differences found in oppositional pairs via differences in vowel quality as can be seen again in example (1a and b). The number of ideophones employed by the languages of the area is usually quite large and more often than not they count in the hundreds as in Thadou itself (Haokip 2014: 71), but also in Lamkang (TH, Eastern India; Chelliah et al. 2020: 173) or in Mizo (TH, Eastern India; Chhangte 1993: 120–130).

With this study I want to contribute to the still inconclusive investigation of ideophones in South Central languages.

(1) Thadou (Haokip 2014: 72)

a. *hùmpîi â-pêŋ lôoy-lôoy-nêe*
 tiger 3-roar IDEO-DECL
 ‘The tiger roars very loudly.’

b. *vâtsâa-khúu â-hâam lîit-lîit-nêe*
 bird-DET.DIST 3-speak IDEO-DECL
 ‘The bird (over there) speaks expressively.’ (unexpected of a bird)

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Exploring “Love” Concepts in Chinese: A Functionalist Perspective Using Natural Semantic Metalanguage Framework

Yiwei Luo

Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg

Emotions emerge from our daily lives and greatly influence our thoughts, actions and sometimes physical conditions, and languages play a crucial role in the way how we access these feelings and thoughts (Wierzbicka, 1996). The deepening research in cross-cultural and cross-linguistic communication has revealed the connection between emotions, cultures and languages. Since emotion concepts can be fairly culture- and language-specific, exploring the differences in emotion concepts across cultures and languages is increasingly important. According to Cliff Goddard (2018), overly relying on English-specific concepts can negatively impact studies in various fields including cultural psychology and cross-cultural communication. Additionally, functionalism suggests that language plays a crucial role in shaping and reflecting the emotional landscapes of its speakers, which also proves the importance of cross-cultural and cross-linguistic perspectives in emotion concept studies.

This talk analyzes a variety of Chinese emotion words related to “love” such as *ai qing* (romantic love), *qin qing* (familial love), and *you qing* (friendship) by discussing the meaning of the words in the Chinese context. It aims to uncover the subtle differences in semantic meanings between various emotion concepts and explains how these emotional experiences are conceptualized and distinguished.

The presentation utilizes the Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM) framework Anna Wierzbicka (1996) developed to break down complex semantic concepts into simpler, crossculturally comparable elements. According to Zhengdao Ye (2016), the traditional Chinese cultural ethos is highly “family-oriented and relational”. As a result, a wide range of positive emotions in Chinese are anchored in interpersonal relationships, and the emotion of “love” often places great emphasis on self-devoted actions and deeds over words, especially in familial and romantic contexts. For example, the term *ten ai* in Chinese often carries a deep and tender love from the older to the younger, implying profound love, tender care, selfless devotion, and deep affection within the family. And so, the semantic explication of *ten ai* can be like this:

Someone feels something very good about another person for a long time
because this someone thinks like this:

“I know that person is very good and very close to me

I want this person to feel good

I want to do something very good for this person

at the same time, I know that it is like this:

this person is younger than me

this person needs me to do good things for them in the long term

even if these good things are not good for me, I still want to do them

I want it to be like this.”

When this someone thinks like this, this someone feels something very good and wants
to do good things for others.

It is very good for someone if they can be like this.

In this example, the phrases “I know” and “I want to” are used because the emotion of *ten ai* is based on a belief and self-consciousness that “this person” deserves good deeds from others. This person can be a small child in a family or a kindergarten, needing care and love from their family members or teachers. The second important element is the asymmetrical devotion of the older ones, since the object of *ten ai*, the younger person, is usually considered as in need. Lastly, *ten ai* is evaluated rather positively by the “someone” and the social value, because cherishing the young is one of the most important values in Chinese society and those who care for and love children, like parents and teachers, are often highly respected.

This research offers in-depth insights into various emotional aspects of “love” in Chinese, contributing to our comprehension of the culture- and language-specific meanings of emotions.

Keywords: love concept, emotion words, Chinese emotion, semantic explication, Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM)

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Contextual Wording and Framework of the #MeToo Movement in Online Discourse

Julia Weller
Universität Zürich

The present study delves into the contextual lexical wording and underlying framework around the #MeToo movement in online discourse. It conducts a corpus-based sociolinguistic discourse analysis (mixed methods) and investigates how the debate around #MeToo was lexically framed as well as how this reflects people's attitudes towards the movement. The comment section of a thematic thread from the online forum *Quora* served as the main target corpus. Comparing this corpus with a more general text compilation shows that the words 'women' and 'men' stood out the most – this allows for an examination of gender dynamics within the #MeToo debate. To investigate how this tendency is implemented in the comments, all sentences containing 'women', 'men' and other related target words were annotated with different categories. These context categories were furthermore subsumed under three umbrella categories that serve to depict the representation of oppression; establishing these three categories aims to reflect the overarching thematic dynamic(s) of the comment section.

#MeToo is a solidary movement against sexual assault and personal empowerment (cf. Foster and Rathlin 2022): since most victims are female, I expect words for women to be used in a context that displays empathy for (female) victims. Furthermore, #MeToo as a rather controversial issue is perceived differently among the genders, which leads me to hypothesise that generally, the topic of a "gender war", i.e. the notion of "men against women", will be prominent within the comment section (cf. Lisnek et al. 2022; Vázquez et al. 2024; Waling 2023).

Looking at the quantitative results, many users mention that in their opinion, #MeToo mainly benefits women and that it is in many respects disadvantageous for men. A notion of "men against women" can indeed be detected in different parts of the outcome of the study. However, not just the "gender war" debate was of importance to many commentators, but also the idea of #MeToo as a megaphone for sharing own stories and speaking up against sexual harassment, which points to a strong sense of empathy with (female) victims of sexual harassment. Thus, it is shown that the #MeToo discourse in the *Quora* corpus is indexical of social debates around empathy, victimhood, oppression on behalf of both genders, and gender roles that decelerate the advancement of society.

As the topic of the "gender war" was so prominent, a further outlook on this issue in connection with the empowerment of victims and the role of masculinity should be presented. Since a lot of people in the comment section seem to feel that men are excluded from the movement, many commentators consider this a reason to oppose #MeToo. This points towards a general need for an implementation of

"[...] non-confrontational strategies that address men's concerns about feminist advancement [since such strategies] can prevent potential defensive reactions and make them more receptive to social change towards gender equality." (Vázquez et al. 2024: 417)

Source Materials

Target Corpus

“What are your thoughts on the “Me too” movement?”. 2018. *Quora*. Available at: <<https://www.quora.com/What-are-your-thoughts-on-the-Me-too-movement>> (accessed 25 March 2024).

Reference Corpus

“Leipzig Corpora Collection: *com* English Web-Public Corpus 2018”. 2024. *Projekt Deutscher Wortschatz Leipzig*. Available at: <<https://wortschatz.uni-leipzig.de/en/download/Eng-lish>> (accessed 03 May 2024).

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A demonstrative in sentence-final position: the case of *ari* in the Apahapsili dialect of Yali (Trans-New Guinea)

Jonathan Reich
Universität Bern

Demonstratives are ubiquitous in the world’s languages where they often perform a large array of functions (cf. Levinson 2006: 107). This is well illustrated by the Apahapsili dialect of Yali, a Dani language of the highlands of Western New Guinea (Indonesia), where the demonstrative *ari* occurs in a multitude of morphosyntactic environments. Interestingly, the form is frequently encountered sentence-finally in Yali discourse.

Overall, the demonstrative paradigm of Yali isn't yet well understood. It comprises a large number of forms (cf. Riesberg in progress: 19–22), which are all free morphemes. Both simple (my terminology) and complex forms are attested, in turn being composed of a basic and a prefixed series. Table 1 shows the simple forms, including the marginal form *ta* (cf. Riesberg in progress: 19):

| | basic series | prefixed series |
|------|--------------|-----------------|
| PRX | <i>tu</i> | <i>aru</i> |
| MED | <i>ti</i> | <i>ari</i> |
| DIST | <i>(ta)</i> | <i>ita</i> |

Table 1: Yali simple demonstratives

The simple forms can occur in not only pro- and adnominal but also in adverbial function, which is rare cross-linguistically (cf. Himmelmann 1996: 245–246). *ari* is a simple, prefixed form, analyzed as encoding medial distance from the deictic center when used adverbially. It is therefore consistently glossed as MED. Examples (1)–(3) illustrate *ari* in adverbial, pronominal and adnominal use:

- (1) *nimi itno ari wereg* [adverbial]
 imi itno ari wereg
 small.boy DET MED EXIST
 ‘the child is **there**’ [frog_story_Silpa_Fince 265]
- (2) *ari sefelug* [pronominal]
 ari su-fe-tug
 MED do-COMPL-SEQ
 ‘after having done **this**’ [honai_expl_Isak 110]
- (3) *asrama ari* [adnominal]
 aserama ari
 dormitory MED
 ‘**this** dormitory’ [Saul_fights_suanggi 028]

Example (4) features an entire sentence. *ari* occurs sentence-finally and is seamlessly integrated into the typical falling pitch contour:

- (4) *arat hondokma wirak sibareg /*
 arat hondok=mu wirat-ik su-ibag-teg
 then fire=LOC bake-DIR do-3.REM.PST-SS.PRIOR
 ‘after he burned it over the fire,
- hinare indi itano lisoko nibag ari*
 hin-are indi ita=no lit-oho na-ibag ari
 2p.POSS-friend heart DIST=GIV pull-ADV.PART eat-3.REM.PST MED
 the man cut them in half and took out their hearts to eat’ [filling_the_traps 086-087]

Example (4) features a clause chaining construction which is common in Yali (cf. Riesberg in progress: 55). The chain consists of two clauses: a medial switch reference clause ending in *-teg* and

the final clause ending in *nibag ari*. Crucially, the end of the sentence is identifiable via the final verb alone: *ari* is not an obligatory component of clause chaining constructions. The function(s) of sentence-final *ari* are unclear at this point.

The talk will focus on those possible function(s). To this end, an investigation of the morphosyntactic distribution of *ari* in a corpus of 10, mostly narrative recordings was carried out. Among other things, token numbers were obtained for:

- Adnominal, pronominal & neither pro- nor adnominal *ari*
- *ari* in sentence-final position
- *ari* in clause-final position

Based on those figures, several hypotheses were developed regarding the function(s) of sentence-final *ari*. Those range from a prototypical adverbial to a discourse-structuring function. During the talk the hypotheses will be discussed and qualitatively evaluated. The preliminary results paint the picture of a demonstrative with a rather untypical distribution and a striking number of functions.

Abbreviations

/ = intonation unit boundary; 2 = second person; 3 = third person; ADV.PART = adverbial participle; COMPL = completive; DET = determiner; DIR = directional; DIST = distal demonstrative; EXIST = existential predicate; GIV = given; LOC = locative; MED = medial demonstrative; p = plural; POSS = possessive; PRX = proximal demonstrative; REM.PST = remote past; SEQ = sequential; SS.PRIOR = same subject prior (to event denoted by following predicate)

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Verflechtung mentaler Räume durch Deixis

Carmen Schormair
Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg

In meinem Vortrag zeige ich, wie GesprächspartnerInnen multimodale Deiktika (verbal und gestisch) einsetzen, um zugleich auf Orte und Zeitpunkte zu verweisen, die von der Interaktionssituation abweichen. In Anlehnung an die *Blending Theory*¹ nach Fauconnier und Turner argumentiere ich, dass diese Deiktika als sogenannte *space builder*² mentale Vorstellungsräume (*mental spaces*)² eröffnen und miteinander zu Raumkomplexen verflechten.

Als Datengrundlage dient eine halbstündige Videoaufnahme von drei deutschsprachigen jungen Erwachsenen, die gemeinsam eine Schnitzeljagd planen. Während ihrer Planung fertigen die Teilnehmer eine Skizze an, auf der sie festhalten, worauf sie sich einigen. Die skizzierten Räume und Hinweise können als abstrakte Repräsentation ihrer gemeinsamen Vorstellung betrachtet werden und bilden schematisch die Planungsaspekte ab, die die InteraktionspartnerInnen fortan als *common ground*³, also als Kommunikationsgrundlage, annehmen können. Indem sie auf spezifische Stellen auf der Skizze zeigen, verweisen sie weniger auf die Zeichnung an sich als vielmehr auf mit dem Abbild verbundene Vorstellungsräume. Auf diese Weise können die GesprächspartnerInnen effizient auf ein Ereignis Bezug nehmen, das beispielsweise in der Zukunft, an einem anderen Ort und nur hypothetisch stattfinden soll. Die Referenz mancher Deiktika in meinem Datensatz ist insofern komplex, als dass das verwendete verbale Deiktikon sowohl lokal als auch temporal verstanden werden kann. In folgendem Beispiel zeigt Markus (links im Bild) auf einen Ort auf der Skizze und verbindet die deiktische Geste mit dem verbalen Deiktikon „da“.



01 M: (.) weil **da** kann man des gut mit dem WERKzeug einbauen,

Beispiel: „da“

Die Zeigegeste desambiguiert das Adverb nur an der Oberfläche, denn Markus referiert nicht lokal auf die Skizze, sondern auf einen hypothetischen Zeitpunkt (*Deixis am Phantasma*⁴) und von der Origo⁵ aus nicht einsehbarer Ort (*anaphorische Deixis*⁵), an dem in der gemeinsam geplanten Schnitzeljagd ein Hinweis versteckt werden soll. Solche multimodalen Deiktika sind also multireferenziell, eröffnen deswegen mehrere mentale Räume und verflechten diese miteinander. Die GesprächspartnerInnen referieren so auf spezifische von der Interaktionssituation lokal und temporal abweichende Momente bzw. Orte in ihrer gemeinsam aufgebauten Vorstellung.

In den vorliegenden Daten gelingt die Kommunikation, die TeilnehmerInnen verstehen einander. Daraus lässt sich ableiten, dass sie erstens die ambige Referenz der multimodalen Deiktika entschlüsseln und sich zweitens ihre individuellen Vorstellungen von der Schnitzeljagd als gemeinsamem Planungsgegenstand ausreichend decken. Die Komplexität der mentalen Raumgeflechte scheint sie in der Interaktion nicht zu behindern. Stattdessen ermöglicht die Fusion an Informationen in den verwendeten Deiktika effizientere Kommunikation.

Stichworte: mentale Räume; Blending Theory; multimodale Deixis; Multireferenzialität; deutschsprachige triadische Interaktion

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Person Markings in Saibol and Narum

*Susie Kanshouwa
Universität Bern*

Person markings in Tibeto-Burman, especially the Kuki-Chin languages, are of two types, preverbal and postverbal (see DeLancey 1989, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014; Driem 1993; Peterson 2003). The preverbal prefixes are usually the reduced forms of independent pronouns (Matisoff 2003: 89) and represent a Kuki-Chin innovation (DeLancey 1989:323). Whereas the postverbal suffixes are archaic morphemes that can be traced back to Proto-Tibeto-Burman (DeLancey 2013). Saibol and Narum are two eastern Maring villages, located in Tengoupal district of Manipur, in northeast India (Kanshouwa 2023). They come under the subgroup of Mongmi (Ramyang) Maring. These two languages use both prefixes as well as suffixes for person marking. The preverbal prefixes are derived from independent pronouns and are homophonous with the possessive pronouns, see table 1.1. They indicate the agreement between the subject and the verb when prefixed on the main verb.

| Person Indexation | Saibol | Narum |
|-------------------|------------|------------|
| 1SG | <i>kə-</i> | <i>kə-</i> |
| 2SG | <i>nə-</i> | <i>nə-</i> |
| 3SG | <i>ə-</i> | <i>ə-</i> |

Table 1.1. Preverbal person markings in Saibol and Narum

As for the postverbal markings (see table 1.2), the first-person singular forms are related to the old Sino-Tibetan and Proto-Tibeto-Burman agreement suffix **-ŋ(a)* (van Driem 1993). Whereas the first-person plural marker *mən-* is similar with Moyon and Monsang *ma-* (Konnerth & Wanglar 2018), which according to Delancey (2015) is a unique paradigm not found elsewhere. The second person marker is probably a reflex of the Kuki-Chin second person marker **teʔ* which occur either as *t-*, or as palatalized and/or affricate *c-* or *ts-* (Delancey 2015). Lastly, the third person plural marker *-əi* is similar with some old Kuki-Chin languages such as Ranglong (Haokip 2018). Thus, person markings in Saibol and Narum have features of both the old forms and the new innovations.

| | Saibol | Narum |
|-----|-------------|-----------------|
| 1SG | <i>-əŋ</i> | <i>-iŋ/ -oŋ</i> |
| 1PL | <i>-mɪn</i> | <i>-mən</i> |
| 2SG | <i>-cə</i> | <i>-cə</i> |
| 2PL | <i>-cəu</i> | <i>-cəu</i> |
| 3SG | - | - |
| 3PL | <i>-əi</i> | <i>-əi</i> |

Table 1.2: Postverbal person markings in Saibol and Narum

This paper will discuss in detail the person markings found in Saibol and Narum in comparison with other languages of the region. It will be crucial for enhancing the current knowledge of person markings in Tibeto-Burman and for understanding the language history of Maring in particular.

Keywords: Person Markings, Mongmi Maring, Manipur, Kuki-Chin-Naga languages.

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Stem alternations in Spiti

Ellora Hänni
Universität Bern

Most modern Tibeto-Burman languages exhibit stem alternations in their verbal morphology, a phenomenon which can confidently be reconstructed for the proto-language (see e.g. Jacques 2012: 215). These alternations, however, have been shown to differ in both form and function across the language family. While there seems to be a tendency for a difference in valency, the precise operations which were at work in Proto-Tibeto-Burman remain unclear due to a lack of data. In order to get a better picture, it is therefore crucial to describe the system of verbal stem alternations in as many modern TB languages as possible.

The project to be presented aims at contributing to this endeavor by examining the alternations found in Spiti, a previously undescribed Tibetic language currently assigned to the Bodish subbranch of the TB family.

In Spiti, two paradigms of verbal stem alternation can be found: Firstly, an alternation with up to three different forms where the last consonant is eliminated and either the vowel is lengthened or changed in quality. The functions are associated with tense, aspect, and modality (henceforth TAM), where stem1 is employed for imperfective use, stem2 for perfective, and stem3 for imperative. Secondly, we can see an alternation in form of pairs of verbs whose forms can differ in five ways (6 if zero alternation is included), all concerning the initial consonant or the register. The verb pairs vary in function through transitivity, whereby the transitive form seems to be the underlying one.

After a more detailed discussion of the two verbal stem alternations in Spiti, the presentation will include an attempt at locating the systems within the Tibetic branch of TB. Finally, the findings will be discussed with respect to the contribution made to the study of TB stem alternations.

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Diagnosing Contact Process from Outcome: The Case of Nagamese Finite Verb

Dibyajyoti Jana
Leiden University; visiting student in Bern

When many members of a speech community systematically use multiple languages, the languages may influence each other in various ways leading to “contact-induced change”. Thomason and Kaufman (1988) proposed that any feature may, in principle, be borrowed from one language in contact to another if the conditions are right. Yet, the results of contact-induced change are not random. Ross (2013) enumerated and justified a number of criteria to distinguish contact-situations characterized by pre-adolescent bilingualism from those characterized by adult L2-learning based on the outcome of the change. While he substantiated his conclusions on the effects of pre-adolescent bilingualism with a rich array of data, the empirical support provided for his conclusions on the effects of adult L2-learning was sparse. In the present study, Nagamese is used as a case study to verify Ross’s (2013) criteria for diagnosing contact situations dominated by adult L2-learning, since the evolution of Nagamese from Assamese through adult L2-learning can be inferred from extra-linguistic evidence.

Ngamese is spoken by many in Nagaland, a small mountainous state in North-East India, as a second native language alongside one of the so-called “Naga” languages, belonging to the Tibeto-Burman family. It differs from its Eastern Indo-Aryan parent, Assamese, in many ways. However, to

keep the scope of the present study manageable, only the finite verbs were considered since, in Assamese, they have a moderately complex agglutinative structure with subject, tense and aspects marked with identifiable morphemes while the distinctions within these categories are unlikely to be all directly mappable to the psychologically dominant languages of the L2-learners from Nagaland. Assamese verb paradigms also show certain unpredictability in their semantics which lends them amenable to contact-induced changes.

Comparing available descriptions of Nagamese and Assamese supplemented by some Nagamese texts, it was found that Nagamese finite verbs had undergone morphological and semantic changes compatible with the expected outcome of adult speakers of Naga languages learning Assamese as predicted by Ross (2013). Firstly, this involves failure to acquire morpho-syntactic categories unavailable in the languages of Nagaland, e.g. subject agreement. Secondly, it involves resolution of perceived redundant variability in the input language (Assamese) by eliminating some forms and establishing clearer semantic boundaries among the others, e.g. the loss of simple past *-il* in favour of the semantically similar present anterior *-is* with some explainable lexical exceptions. Similarly, specialized Assamese imperative forms have been lost from Nagamese, but the future forms, which also have imperative usage in Assamese, have been formally split into separate imperative and future forms.

There is also some evidence of an innovative negative present continuous form in the Nagamese texts that may be hypothesized as an instance of complexification reflecting the spread of Nagamese among pre-adolescent speakers in the second half of the 20th century but this requires to be confirmed with additional data. Moreover, in the negative formation, Nagamese retains the constructional asymmetry of Assamese, but has lost its paradigmatic asymmetry. Future studies should investigate if this is a cross-linguistically stable pattern in (certain types of) contact scenarios.

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What tone teaches us about typology

*Dr. Sandra Auderset
Universität Bern*

This talk explores the components we need for typology of tone that allows us to better understand and explain tonal phenomena on a cross-linguistic level. I show how integrating phonetics, morphosyntax, and historical linguistics into an empirical framework can provide a way forward and the implications this has for typology on a broader scale.

Many – possibly a majority of – languages of the world are described as tonal (Yip 2002), that is they make use of pitch to distinguish (at least some) morphemes. But tone is often viewed as complicated and expendable, especially in comparative linguistics. Thus tonal phenomena are conspicuously absent from cross-linguistic studies and large-scale databases. Out of the 195 Grambank features (Skirgård et al. 2023), only one (GB291) makes reference to tone (in the context of polar question marking). If languages with tones are included in typological resources, the classifications are often based on coarse-grained types, such as ‘simple’ (two tones) and ‘complex’ (more than two tones) in WALS (Maddieson 2013). These are carried over into cross-linguistic studies making broad claims about tonal languages (cf. Dediu 2011, Everett et al. 2015, Everett et al. 2016). Such coarse-grained system classifications have long been recognized as problematic because they obscure the actual diversity found within and across languages (cf. Brunelle & Kirby 2016) and treat tone as a disconnected from the from the rest of grammar. Finer-grained tone typologies include Hyman’s (2009, 2015) ‘property-driven’ or canonical approach and feature-based approaches (Maddieson 1972). Other typologies have focused on specific areas, families, or subsystems (e.g., Hildebrandt 2004 on Bodish, Palancar et al. on Otomanguean, Kaldhol 2024 on tonal exponence). Such approaches are confronted with various difficulties, ranging from basic questions of what

constitutes ‘tone’ and a ‘tone language’ to more systematic ones regarding the phonetic correlates of the ‘tones’ and their function within the larger language system.

This was already observed by Heath (2016) who sees tonal languages as particularly ill-suited for traditional typology because of language-specific, systematic interactions between the tonal patterns and other parts of grammar. An example of such interactions are tonosyntactic patterns in Dogon that override lexical tones on adjacent constituents (Heath & McPherson 2013). Himmelmann (2023) similarly concludes for ‘stress’ that it is not a useful concept for cross-linguistic comparison because of its multidimensional and highly complex nature. Even when each dimension is considered separately, comparison remains challenging not least because our understanding of the phenomenon is heavily influenced by (work on) European stress systems. It is not a coincidence that tone confronts similar issues. Such systematic interactions are not limited to tonal and stress phenomena – they are just much harder to ignore than with other phonological and morphosyntactic concepts and thus provide the ideal starting point for improving typological methodology and reasoning.

To understand tonal phenomena, we need to study tone in its natural habitat and integrate different components into an explanatory, empirical framework. Research in this direction is already in progress, including phonetic correlates as causal models for tonogenesis (Gao & Kirby 2024), the inclusion of tonal processes into constituency typology (Tallman et al. 2024), and testing assumptions about tone change (Auderset 2024). I explore how an integrative (tone) typology can work towards connecting these results and how this shows a way forward for linguistic typology in general.

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Title to be announced

*Dr. Gwendolyn Hyslop
The University of Sydney*

To be announced

Töne des Hmars

*Léonard Paget
Universität Bern*

Die süd-zentrale tibeto-burmanische Sprache Hmar wird von etwa 50.000 Sprecher:innen hauptsächlich in Nordostindien genutzt. Lotven (2023) betont die komplexen und diversen Systeme von lexikalischen und grammatikalischen Tönen der süd-zentralen Sprachen. Der Schwerpunkt dieser Seminararbeit liegt in der Beschreibung der Töne des Hmars.

Mit einer Sprecherin des Hmars wurden zu diesem Zweck Dateien gesammelt, welche Nomen und Verben umfassen, die von der Informantin elizitiert wurden. Das Material wurde in Verbindung mit possessiven und pluralen Affixen ausgesprochen.

Die Ergebnisse sind drei verschiedene Töne im Hmar, die auf das gesamte Wort mit seinen Affixen realisiert wurden: ein Level-Hoch-Ton, ein konkav und ein konvexer Ton. Die konkaven und konvexen Töne entstehen durch die Polarität der ersten Affixe der Wurzel, während die Tonhöhe des Level-Tons durch horizontale Assimilation entsteht. Bei einem zweiten Suffix entsteht die Tonhöhe dieses Suffixes durch die Polarität zum Ton der Wurzel – während bei zwei Suffixen der konkave Ton durch eine steigende Kontur auf der letzten Silbe realisiert wird, findet eine horizontale Assimilation des ersten Suffixes statt. Alle Töne des Hmar sind durch einen obligatorischen und einzigen Fall charakterisiert. Es wurde gezeigt, dass Affixe auch einen inhärenten Ton haben können. Dies ist der Fall bei den Plural-Positiv-Präfixen, die auf alle drei Töne der Wurzel zur konkaven Tonfolge wegen ihres inhärenten hohen Tones wirkten. In der Folge konnten weitere Phänomene festgestellt werden, wie beispielsweise ein Downstep der hohen Tonhöhe der letzten Silbe.

Diese Ergebnisse stimmen mit den Aussagen von Lotven (2023) über die Töne der südzentralen Sprachen überein. Hmar entspricht den Merkmalen der Sprachfamilie in Bezug auf mindestens zwei Tonhöhen sowie einen Konturton. Hmar hat einen hohen/niedrigen Kontrast und mehrere Konturen mit konkaven und konvexen Tönen. Die Bedeutung der Polarität ist ebenfalls ein Merkmal, das Hmar mit den südzentralen Sprachen in Bezug auf die atonalen Affixe teilt.

Da sich die Arbeit noch in Bearbeitung befindet, werden weitere Aspekte in der Endfassung der Arbeit behandelt, insbesondere die Realisierung der Töne auf mehrsilbige Wörter mit der Forschungsfrage: Verhalten sich Töne mehrsilbiger Wörter gleich wie einsilbige Wörter?

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Developing a Cross-Dialect Phonetic Analysis of Southern Kurdish in Iraq and Iran

Lucas Ardelean

Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg

This study investigates the phonetic variations in a sub-set of Southern Kurdish dialects in Iraq and Iran, with particular emphasis on those spoken in Kirkuk, Bagdad, Kalar, Khanaqin, Qasreshirin, Kermansah, and Ilam. The aim is to compile a standardized list of lexical items linked to audio and video files that can feed into various metrics for assessing interdialectal distances and clustering algorithms, in particular, a version of the Levenstein distance method. This material will be multiply re-usable, including for investigations of mutual intelligibility across these dialects, phylogenetic and acoustic analysis, and West Iranian comparative studies. Southern Kurdish remains one of the least-researched sub-group within the conventional understanding of Kurdish.

Rounds of fieldwork have been conducted in the named regions, using a set of 450 lexical items sourced from the Jena-Bamberg Iranian List (JBIL) developed by Geoffrey Haig and Eric Anonby, and the Kurdish Survey: Lexicon Questionnaire, authored by Geoffrey Haig, Masoud Mohammadirad, and Ergin Öpengin.

Initial results reveal marked lexical and phonetic disparities among the dialects. These differences have been particularly prominent in the usage of select words: hair [qiz] in Khanaqini, [gis,] in Fayli, [qidz] in Qasashini, [mu] in Kalhori, ear [nerme] in Fayli, [goʃ] in Khanaqini, [getʃka] in Kalari, tooth [digan] in Kalhori, [diʔgan] in Kalari, [dinal] in Fayli. Early analysis employing the Levenstein distance method underscores the expected phonetic divergences between the dialects, particularly between those traditionally classified within different groups. Notably, preliminary findings confirm the phonetic and lexical dissimilarity between Qasreshirin (Southern Kurdish) and Kalar (Central Kurdish). Conversely, Qasreshirin and Khanaqin, both classified as Southern Kurdish, are shown to be the most similar, reflecting closer phonetic ties or lesser historical separation.

This study also navigates complex methodological terrains, reflecting on the intricacies of dialectal research. The outcomes of this research extend beyond dialectal comparisons to contribute to the broader field of Iranian linguistic studies, enhancing our understanding of linguistic diversity and evolution within the region. By aligning with international linguistic surveys and frameworks, this study not only contributes to the field of Southern Kurdish phonetics, but also integrates these dialects into a global linguistic context.

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A Comparative Analysis of Complex Honorifics in Tibetic Languages

Sara Birkenmaier

Universität Bern

Tibetic languages display an idiosyncratic kind of honorific system consisting of lexical replacement of both nouns and verbs. Honorific counterparts for lexemes are either suppletive simple forms or complex honorific constructions (Bialek 2023). The latter are formed through a process of compounding plain forms with semantically related simple honorifics. While this honorific system is attested in most Tibetan varieties, no comparative analysis between languages has been attempted to

date. For that reason, this paper will conduct a comparative analysis of the honorifics found in four different Tibetic languages (Classical Tibetan, Lhasa Tibetan, Ladakhi and Dzongkha) and analyse to which extent this complex honorific system displays structural variation. It will be concluded that while variation in compounding patterns is possible, a strong preference for disyllabic word structure is observable for both nouns and verbs, as well as a pre-positioning tendency for the honorific element in nouns, and a post-positioning tendency for verbs in the form of honorific light verb constructions.

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Title to be announced

Freya Schumann
Universität Innsbruck

To be announced

A first look at Tamar historical phonology

Joël Schregenerberger
Universität Bern

The Tamar (formerly Greater Yakkha-Limbu) languages, spoken by no more than 400.000 people in eastern Nepal and Sikkim, have almost all been described thoroughly, starting in the 1970s. They belong to the Eastern Kiranti group of languages (see Gerber & Grollmann 2018), but few attempts have been made to systematically establish their genetic relationship to one another. Based on regular sound correspondences observed in a large corpus of verb stems modeled on Jacques (2017), a tentative reconstruction of Proto-Tamar phonology is presented, followed by remarks on subgrouping. This diachronic study of Tamar equally contributes to furthering the traditional, bottom-up methodology of reconstruction in Trans-Himalayan linguistics.

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A grammatical reconstruction of “genitive” marking in Northwestern South Central Trans-Himalayan

Janna Büchi
Universität Bern

About twenty languages spoken in Northeast India – concentrated in the states of Manipur, Tripura and parts of Assam – comprise the Northwestern (“Old Kuki”) subgroup of the South-Central (“Kuki-Chin”) branch of the Trans-Himalayan language family (Konnerth 2022: 294, 296). Based on grammatical descriptions available for fifteen varieties (namely Aimol, Biate, Bongcher, Chiru, Chothe, Kharam, Koireng, Kom, Korbong, Lamkang, Monsang, Moyon, Purum, Ranglong and Tarao), I provide a first reconstruction of the Proto-Northwestern system of case marking.

My talk will be focused on the “genitive” suffix **-ta*, which has a peculiar distribution in many Northwestern languages: Instead of occurring on adnominal possessors that modify a nominal head, as one would expect of a genitive marker (cf. Lander 2009: 581), the reflexes of the “genitive” **-ta* tend to be restricted to possessors that serve as independent nominal heads. In the grammars I consulted, most examples of such independent possessors are “possessive pronouns” serving as nominal predicates (corresponding functionally to English *mine* in clauses like *This book is mine*). Although less frequently included in the grammars, there are clear examples of lexical possessors with the

“genitive” case (like *John’s* in *This book is John’s*), which show that the suffix is still productive. However, not all Northwestern languages restrict the “genitive” in such a way – some do use the “genitive” in the expected function of marking adnominal possessors. What, then, is the original distribution of the “genitive” *-ta and which diachronic developments lead to the atypical distribution found in many Northwestern languages nowadays? To answer these questions, I draw on the emerging methodology of grammatical reconstruction (cf. Daniels 2020: §2; Gildea et al. 2020; Bostoen 2022).

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Toponymic evidence for the meeting of the Danish and Norwegian Vikings in North-West England

Sarah Möller

Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg

In this contribution, a distinction between Old Norwegian and Danish elements in Old Norse place-names of the North-West of England is drawn, thereby shedding light on the importance of toponymic evidence in research on the Scandinavian settlement. The Viking invasion of the UK has long been shrouded in mystery despite having been investigated from many different angles (cf. Jesch 1991, Logan 2002, Bugge 1921, Richards 2008, Worsaae 1852). In fact, the talk of *the Vikings* as a whole is problematic, with scholars only recently beginning to discuss the importance of acknowledging the separate kingdoms of the time as being distinct (Downham 2012). It is therefore important to properly differentiate between Danish and Norwegian settlements in England. Thus, in this contribution, the settlement patterns of the Scandinavians from the Danish and Norwegian kingdoms in the North-West of England are investigated on the basis of toponymic evidence.

The study of place-names has long been recognised as a useful tool for studying the past. Mills (2011: xi) spoke of place-names as a kind of ‘linguistic fossil’, referring to their ability to preserve features of speech from several hundred years ago.

In this presentation, I will show that a distinction between Old Norwegian and Old Danish in Old Norse elements within place-names of North-West England can be made. This distinction is made on the basis of four categories: phonology, lexis, anthropology, and the remains of Goidelic influence on the Norwegian invaders. Examples include:

1. the phonological <ō> – <ú> distinction whereby words such as *bōð* and *búð* ‘booth’ can be categorised as Old Danish and Old Norwegian, respectively;
2. the exclusive occurrence of certain lexemes such as *slakki* ‘slope’ and *banke* ‘ridge’ in Old Norwegian or Old Danish texts, respectively;
3. the use of anthroponyms such as *Flik*, found only in texts from the Danish kingdom, or *Hákon*, the name of a row of Old Norwegian kings; and

4. the phenomenon of inversion compounds whereby place-names with Old Norse elements are presented in the order of the Celtic language, such as *Kirkpatrick - kirkja* ‘church’ (the generic element) + *Pátraic* (the specific element).

Despite an extensive body of work on Scandinavian place-names in North-West England (cf. Ekwall 1922, Armstrong 1950, Smith 1964), the distinction between Old Norwegian and Old Danish place-names has only been touched upon in previous research. Thus, the objective of this presentation is to fill this gap, showing the extent of information which is missed when ignoring this distinction.

The results of this study show a striking pattern with the Danish and Norwegian invaders appearing to settle on opposite sides of Lancashire, the north-western county in question, which not only supports previous archaeological findings but also presents a new insight into the path and the focus of the Norwegian and Danish settlers of the 9th to 11th century.

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Eine vergleichende Analyse zweier chinesischer Übersetzungen des Grimms Märchens auf Basis der funktionalen Übersetzungstheorie

Yulei Ji

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

In China sind Grimms Märchen sehr bekannt und haben mehrere chinesische Übersetzungen. Da chinesische Kinder die Hauptlesergruppe dieser Übersetzungen darstellt, stellt sich die Frage, mit welchen Übersetzungsstrategien und -verfahren die Märchen zielgruppengerecht ins Chinesische übersetzt werden können und inwiefern diese Strategien und Verfahren als angemessen anzusehen sind.

In der Arbeit wird es versucht, durch eine vergleichende Analyse der jeweils von Yang Wuneng und von Wei Yixin erstellten chinesischen Übersetzung ausgewählter Märchen (*Schneewittchen*, *Aschenputtel*, *Der Froschkönig* oder *der eiserne Heinrich* sowie *Hans im Glück*) diese Fragen zu beantworten.

Im theoretischen Teil der Arbeit wird die funktionale Übersetzungstheorie von C. Nord sowie deren Anwendung kurz dargestellt. Auf dieser Grundlage sollen im empirischen Teil der Arbeit die pragmatischen Übersetzungsprobleme (PÜP), die konventionsbezogenen Übersetzungsprobleme (KÜP), die sprachenpaarbezogenen Übersetzungsprobleme (SÜP) und die Text(exemplar)spezifischen Übersetzungsprobleme (TÜP) in den ausgewählten Märchenübersetzungen detailliert analysiert werden.

Das Ziel dieser Arbeit ist es, durch Analyse praktische Vorschläge für die Übersetzung der deutschsprachigen Märchen ins Chinesische anzubieten.

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Differences between semantics-based and syntax-based prediction errors during language processing: evidence from self-paced reading

Elizaveta Savina

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

Our world perception is highly dependent on routine processes as well as predictable surroundings that we have learned to operate in. The question of predictability is also significant for language perception and processing, specifically, the assumption that our cognition predicts the verbal environment in accordance with already available information.

In the abundance of linguistic prediction cues such as semantic, syntactic, phonetic, orthographic and others arises the question of reciprocal influences and interactions of these notions that are mostly observed separately without direct comparison in the previous research. Therefore, current work examines how differently predictability in language processing detects and handles semantic and syntactic information.

For this purpose, we programmed and conducted a self-paced reading experiment in the "PsychoPy" software among native speakers of German who share basic socio-demographic variables. The participants were presented with highly constricted sentences containing predictive stimuli chosen via a deliberate cloze probability test in baseline, semantic deviation, and syntactic error conditions. The task was to either evaluate the grammaticality or the meaning plausibility of the depicted sentences with occasional quasirandom comprehension questions to control the participants' engagement and attention.

Prediction errors were chosen as a means of seizable illustration of the processing cost timewise, thus allowing further conclusions about underlying cognitive processes. Additionally, we measured and analyzed the influence of prediction errors on working memory after the self-paced reading. The experiment aims to critically assess how semantic and syntax errors differ in the processing time, taking into consideration possible arbitrary reactions to semantics in syntax-focused participant groups, as well as to syntax in semantic-directed condition groups alongside possibilities of cue suppression with the help of conscious control and attention direction.

The main empirical hypothesis in this study states that semantic and syntax processing reading times differ, leaving room for more deliberate interpretation, possible reasoning for the outcome, and

discussion after evaluating and depicting the data that at the moment is being analyzed with a multiple linear regression model. Interim results hint at the longer responses in the syntactic condition which in early stages confirms the hypothesis.

The interpretations of this study's results once received will give an insight into the interplay and distinction of semantic and syntactic information during language processing.

Error rates in language typology: a first survey

Marvin Martiny

Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg

Every level of abstraction from primary linguistic data compresses information and can lead to inaccuracies by reducing variation and glossing over uncertainties.

In this presentation, I will show how one can approximate the error rates in linguistic typology, and in the process discuss how various types of inaccuracies arise. I will present several estimates for these error rates as well as some proposals for how typologists can take these issues into account moving forward.

Using publications including available typological databases like WALS (Dryer & Haspelmath 2013) and Grambank (Skirgård, Haynie, Hammarström, et al. 2023). I show how we can approximate estimates for both the total and the direct error rate in linguistic typology.

For the purpose of this study, I will distinguish between the set of all inaccuracies in a dataset given as percentage, called the *total error rate* for convenience, and the subset of inaccuracies which are based on misinterpretation of language descriptions, which I will call 'mistakes' and which constitute the *direct error rate*.

We must distinguish several types when compiling a list of estimates, both in terms of the data sources and the type and origin of the *tertium comparationis* used to derive the estimates. Each type of estimate requires different assumptions and thus informs us about slightly different notions of error rates.

One important dichotomy is between sources for which we can stipulate a "true" value and sources for which this is not possible. The latter make it necessary to establish error rates from inter-rater (dis)agreement or similar measures.

Based on this dichotomy, I present the three main types found in practice which I call (1) estimates from versioning, (2) estimates from specialist review, and (3) estimates from inter-rater (dis)agreement. I will present estimates of all these types and explain how I conceived them.

Because of its importance for the proposals for future typological research, I will also briefly mention the difference between mistakes and non-mistakes, and categorize mistakes further, such as overconfidence mistakes, typing mistakes and misunderstanding mistakes (cf. Skirgård, Haynie, Blasi, et al. 2023, supplement, page 9, emphasis mine).

Finally, these theoretical considerations allow us to discuss what the practical implications may be, in other words, what typologists can do post-hoc to assess and account for error rates (esp. by including these results in statistical hypothesis testing), and ideally also take measures to reduce the direct error rates in new projects. By including measures in study designs like greater oversight in annotator training as well as independent annotation of subsets to assess reliability, researchers can contribute to a transparent, empirical and knowledgeoriented linguistics.

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